

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below, without prejudice:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~to automatically create~~ of creating a three-dimensional nail object, comprising:

~~starting with~~ receiving a three-dimensional array of data representing a digitized nail surface, ~~and, measuring~~ including receiving data in the form of key reference points on ~~along the~~ a tip of the digitized nail surface along the X-axis, Y-axis, and Z-axis of said digitized nail surface and further receiving data representing the periphery a peripheral edge of the tip of the digitized nail surface, ~~and;~~

~~Selecting~~ comparing the array of data received against a plurality of preexisting three-dimensional artificial nail tips ~~three-dimensional point array~~ and selecting one of the plurality of preexisting three-dimensional artificial nail tips that closely matches the key reference points of the digitized nail surface;

~~and duplicating~~ creating a duplicate of the digitized nail surface ~~area~~ and ~~raising~~ aligning the duplicate digitized nail surface area on the Z-axis to align with ~~the~~ a top value of the selected preexisting three-dimensional artificial nail tip, and;

combining the preexisting three-dimensional artificial nail tip, the duplicated digitized nail surface and the digitized nail

surface into a new ~~preferred three-dimensional~~ artificial nail object that conforms to an expected result so that the new ~~generated~~ artificial nail object will fit over the digitized nail surface and create a desired artificial nail appearance.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~starting with a~~ the three-dimensional array of data representing a digitized nail surface includes any data that can be used to represent a three-dimensional object.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the three-dimensional array of data may be represented as points of data representing an X-axis, Y-axis and Z-axis[[]] ~~The~~ said three-dimensional array of data may also include the points defining the periphery of the tip of the digitized nail surface.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~measuring key reference points~~ the method further includes determining ~~the~~ a measurement value in millimeters or inches of the nail surface along its X-axis, Y-axis and Z-axis; where X-axis represents width, Y-axis represents the length and Z-axis represents depth.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~measuring key reference points~~ the method further includes determining the arc of the digitized nail surface along the X-axis and/or determining the arc of the nail surface along the Y-axis.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~measuring key reference points~~ the method further includes evaluating three-dimensional points along the periphery of the tip of the nail surface.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~selecting a preexisting three-dimensional array of points resembling a preferred nail tip~~ the method further includes using the reference points to select and modify various nail tip objects that have been previously created which closely resemble a desired artificial nail tip.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~duplicating~~ step of creating a duplicate of a digitized nail surface includes replicating the three-dimensional points of the digitized nail surface and manipulating those points on the Z-axis to gain a desired thickness to the final customized nail

object[[.]] ~~This~~ said replicated array of points will become part of the top surface of the customized nail object.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein the duplicated~~copy~~ of three-dimensional nail surface points may require a smoothing function in order for the top surface of the customized nail object to have a uniform and smooth appearance[[.]] ~~Smoothing~~ said smoothing is achieved by comparing all of the three-dimensional points to three-dimensional points next to each point and using a range parameter to determine if the point is out of sync with the desired smoothing function.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the combination of the duplicated nail surface, the selected tip and the digitized nail surface includes aligning the selecting tip to the duplicated nail surface to form the top of the customized nail object and then aligning the digitized nail surface to the other objects to form the customized fit and bottom of the customized nail object.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the desired nail object in its final state is a customized three-dimensional object representing an artificial nail that is desired, which fits over the digitized nail surface.

12. (Currently Amended) A process ~~to automatically create~~ of creating a three-dimensional nail object, comprising:

~~starting with~~ receiving a three-dimensional array of data representing a digitized nail surface, ~~and, measuring~~ including receiving data in the form of key reference points on ~~along the~~ a tip of the digitized nail surface along the X-axis, Y-axis, and Z-axis of said digitized nail surface and further receiving data representing the periphery a peripheral edge of the tip of the digitized nail surface, ~~and;~~

~~Selecting~~ comparing the array of data received against a plurality of preexisting three-dimensional artificial nail tips ~~three-dimensional point array~~ and selecting one of the plurality of preexisting three-dimensional artificial nail tips that closely matches the key reference points of the digitized nail surface;

~~and duplicating~~ creating a duplicate of the digitized nail surface ~~area~~ and ~~raising~~ aligning the duplicate digitized nail surface area on the Z-axis to align with ~~the~~ a top value of the selected preexisting three-dimensional artificial nail tip, ~~and;~~

combining the preexisting three-dimensional artificial nail tip, the duplicated digitized nail surface and the digitized nail surface into a new ~~preferred three-dimensional~~ artificial nail object that conforms to an expected result so that the new

~~generated~~ artificial nail object will fit over the digitized nail surface and create a desired artificial nail appearance.

13. (Original) The process of Claim 12, wherein starting with a three-dimensional array of data representing a digitized nail surface includes any data that can be used to represent a three-dimensional object.

14. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 12, wherein the three-dimensional array of data may be represented as points of data representing an X-axis, Y-axis and Z-axis[[]] ~~The the~~ the three-dimensional array of data may also include the points defining the periphery of the tip of the digitized nail surface.

15. (Original) The process of Claim 12, wherein measuring key reference points includes determining the measurement value in millimeters or inches of the nail surface along its X-axis, Y-axis and Z-axis; where X-axis represents width, Y-axis represents the length and Z-axis represents depth.

16. (Original) The process of Claim 12, wherein measuring key reference points includes determining the arc of the digitized nail surface along the X-axis and/or determining the arc of the nail surface along the Y-axis.

17. (Original) The process of Claim 12, wherein measuring key reference points includes evaluating three-dimensional points along the periphery of the tip of the nail surface.

18. (Original) The process of Claim 12, wherein selecting a preexisting three-dimensional array of points resembling a preferred nail tip includes using the reference points to select and modify various nail tip objects that have been previously created which closely resemble a desired artificial nail tip.

19. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 12, wherein the duplicating of a digitized nail surface includes replicating the three-dimensional points of the digitized nail surface and manipulating those points on the Z-axis to gain a desired thickness to the final customized nail object[[]] ~~This~~ said replicated array of points will become part of the top surface of the customized nail object.

20. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 19, wherein the duplicated copy of three-dimensional points may require a smoothing function in order for the top surface of the customized nail object to have a uniform and smooth appearance[[]]
~~Smoothing~~ smoothing is achieved by comparing all of the three-dimensional points to three-dimensional points next to each

point and using a range parameter to determine if the point is out of sync with the desired smoothing function.

21. (Original) The process of Claim 12, wherein the combination of the duplicated nail surface, the selected tip and the digitized nail surface includes aligning the selecting tip to the duplicated nail surface to form the top of the customized nail object and then aligning the digitized nail surface to the other objects to form the customized fit and bottom of the customized nail object.

22. (Original) The process of Claim 12, wherein the desired nail object in its final state is a customized three-dimensional object representing an artificial nail that is desired, which fits over the digitized nail surface.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program ~~to automatically create a three-dimensional nail object~~ comprising a set of instructions stored on computer readable memory that are processed by a processor, comprising:

~~starting with~~ receiving a three-dimensional array of data representing a digitized nail surface, ~~and,~~
~~measuring~~ including receiving data in the form of key
reference points on ~~along the~~ a tip of the digitized nail surface

along the X-axis, Y-axis, and Z-axis of said digitized nail surface and further receiving data representing the periphery a peripheral edge of the tip of the digitized nail surface, ~~and;~~

~~Selecting~~ comparing the array of data received against a plurality of preexisting three-dimensional artificial nail tips ~~three-dimensional point array~~ and selecting one of the plurality of preexisting three-dimensional artificial nail tips that closely matches the key reference points of the digitized nail surface;

~~and duplicating~~ creating a duplicate of the digitized nail surface ~~area~~ and ~~raising~~ aligning the duplicate digitized nail surface area on the Z-axis to align with ~~the~~ a top value of the selected preexisting three-dimensional artificial nail tip, and;

combining the preexisting three-dimensional artificial nail tip, the duplicated digitized nail surface and the digitized nail surface into a new ~~preferred three-dimensional~~ artificial nail object that conforms to an expected result so that the new ~~generated~~ artificial nail object will fit over the digitized nail surface and create a desired artificial nail appearance.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 23, wherein ~~starting with a three-dimensional array of data representing a digitized nail surface~~ the three-dimensional array

of data includes any data that can be used to represent a three-dimensional object.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 23, wherein the three-dimensional array of data may be represented as points of data representing an X-axis, Y-axis and Z-axis[[.]] ~~The~~ said three-dimensional array of data may also include the points defining the periphery of the tip of the digitized nail surface.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 23, wherein ~~measuring key reference points~~ the program includes determining the measurement value in millimeters or inches of the nail surface along its X-axis, Y-axis and Z-axis; where X-axis represents width, Y-axis represents the length and Z-axis represents depth.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 23, wherein ~~measuring key reference points~~ the computer program includes determining the arc of the digitized nail surface along the X-axis and/or determining the arc of the nail surface along the Y-axis.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 23, wherein ~~measuring key reference points~~ the computer program

includes evaluating three-dimensional points along the periphery of the tip of the nail surface.

29. (Original) The computer program of Claim 23, wherein selecting a preexisting three-dimensional array of points resembling a preferred nail tip includes using the reference points to select and modify various nail tip objects that have been previously created which closely resemble a desired artificial nail tip.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 23, wherein the duplicating of a digitized nail surface includes replicating the three-dimensional points of the digitized nail surface and manipulating those points on the Z-axis to gain a desired thickness to the final customized nail object[[.]] ~~This~~ said replicated array of points will become part of the top surface of the customized nail object.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 30, wherein the duplicated copy of three-dimensional points may require a smoothing function in order for the top surface of the customized nail object to have a uniform and smooth appearance[[.]] ~~Smoothing~~ said smoothing is achieved by comparing all of the three-dimensional points to three-dimensional points

next to each point and using a range parameter to determine if the point is out of sync with the desired smoothing function.

32. (Original) The computer program of Claim 23, wherein the combination of the duplicated nail surface, the selected tip and the digitized nail surface includes aligning the selecting tip to the duplicated nail surface to form the top of the customized nail object and then aligning the digitized nail surface to the other objects to form the customized fit and bottom of the customized nail object.

33. (Original) The computer program of Claim 23, wherein the desired nail object in its final state is a customized three-dimensional object representing an artificial nail that is desired, which fits over the digitized nail surface.